



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 January 1969



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
20 JANUARY 1969

1. Middle East

Saturday the Soviet Foreign Ministry called in US, British, and French representatives to express concern over reports that the Israelis were about to launch large-scale attacks on the Arab states. The Foreign Ministry said it had received the information from the Iraqi Government on 13 January.

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2. South Vietnam

The Communists attacked several US installations today and raided the town of Ban Me Thuot in the central highlands. Most of the attacks were by rocket or mortar, although there was one abortive effort to overrun an American position near the Cambodian border. The attack on Ban Me Thuot also was repulsed.

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3. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek faces another potentially dangerous situation. The student who burned himself on Thursday in an anti-Soviet protest died yesterday. There had been student sympathy demonstrations before his death, and more disturbances with anti-Russian overtones now seem likely. The government has tried to head off trouble with appeals to prudence. Thus far, there has been no public reaction from the Soviets.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US Political Attitudes

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Polish Official to Visit?: [redacted]

[redacted] the Polish foreign minister plans to visit Hanoi at the end of this month. [redacted] is arranging a special flight on 28 January to take him from Phnom Penh to Hanoi.

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The American Embassy in Warsaw cannot confirm this information. It notes that the vice foreign minister left for a trip to the Near and Far East on 17 January and speculates on the possibility that the foreign minister may be planning to join him later.

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International Antiwar Conference: Hanoi has pledged full support for the proposed "Five Continents Anti-Imperialist International Conference for Support of Vietnam," [redacted]

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[redacted] A preparatory meeting for the conference, which was proposed by the Japanese party, will be held in Paris on 22 January, and the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris talks is prepared to assist the activities of this meeting. The tentative date for the convening of the full conference is late February.

The source stated North Vietnam's interest in an early convening date is based on its view that the Paris talks have made poor progress in recent months and on its desire to take propaganda advantage of any uncertainties in the early days of the new US administration.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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